

الصلاة

PRAYER

SALAAH

(FOR BEGINNERS)

Compiled by
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SALAAH (PRAYER) FOR BEGINNERS

INTRODUCTION

After testifying that none is worthy of worship except Allaah alone, and that Muhammad ﷺ is the Last of the Messengers of Allaah, then the most important principle for the new Muslim to learn is the "Salaah", or prayer.

Just as performing Salaah is obligatory, learning to perform it in the prescribed way is also obligatory so that one will know what he is saying to his Lord, and enjoy the full blessing and benefit of prayer. In the performance of Salaah all the prayers have to be said in Arabic and some verses of the Noble Qur'aan must be recited as well. Therefore, it becomes essential for a new Muslim to begin learning those prayers in Arabic, as well as some short Surahs (chapters) of the Noble Qur'aan.

The best way to learn is from a Muslim teacher, which is a time-honored, Islaamic tradition. But for those who might find themselves in a non-Muslim environment where a Muslim teacher is not readily available, this booklet provides a useful alternative.

This booklet is by no means an elaborate book on Salaah. It is only an attempt to supply the very basic information to a new Muslim to enable him to begin praying in Arabic as early as possible. Further information is necessary to perform Salaah under abnormal conditions (i.e. sickness, travel, etc.). Some concessions have been granted by Almighty Allaah in these conditions.

Before starting the prayer, a person is required to make sure that certain preconditions are met, such as cleanliness of the body (Ghusl) if necessary, ablution (Wudhoo'), and cleanliness of the clothes and the place of prayer. Further study is recommended in order to understand all of these aspects of Salaah.

Finally, acknowledgment is due to Abdul Basit Quraishi for compiling the book entitled "The Manner of Performing Prayer for beginners" upon which much of this helpful book is based.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

THE TIMES OF THE PRAYERS

The time for each prayer will not remain constant throughout the seasons as they are determined by the position of the sun. Consequently, the time of a particular prayer would be different in different parts of the World. Prayer Time Tables are available at the mosques and Islaamic Centers throughout the world. Nowadays electronic devices and special clocks are available in the markets which can tell the prayer times of many of the major cities of the world. They are particularly helpful for Muslims traveling to non-Muslim countries. However, the following general timetable for prayers can fairly be observed in almost any part of the world.

There are five obligatory prayers which are performed at five different times of the day.

(1) Salaat ul-Fajr, the morning prayer:

It is the first of the five obligatory prayers of the day. It can be performed at any time between the breaking of the dawn (or about one hour and twenty minutes prior to sunrise) until sunrise. It consists of two rak'ahs (two units of prayer as explained in the forthcoming diagrams).

(2) Salaat udh-Dhuhr, the noon prayer:

It consists of four rak'ahs (units of prayer). Its time begins after the sun declines from its zenith until the shadow of an object is the same length as the height of the object itself.

•(3) Salaat ul-'Asr, the afternoon prayer:

It consists of four rak'ahs (units of prayer). Its time begins when the time for Dhuhr prayer ends and extends to just before sunset.

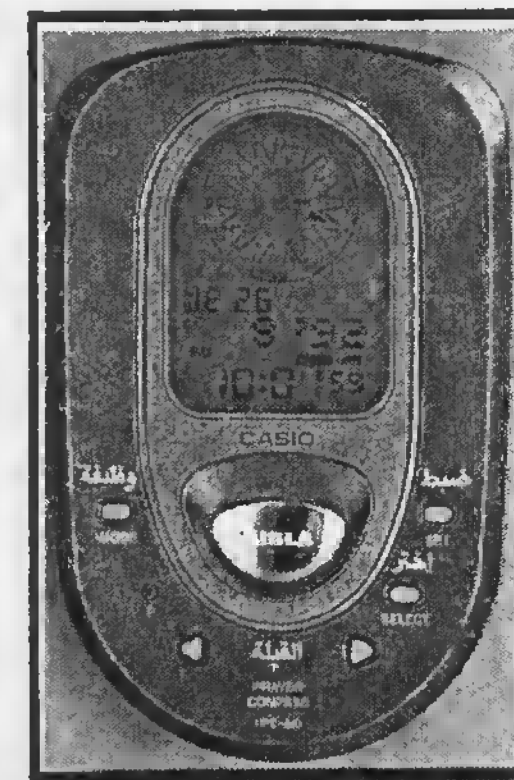
(4) Salaat ul-Maghrib, the evening prayer:

It consists of three rak'ahs (units of prayer). Its time begins just after sunset and lasts for about an hour and a half (when no traces of twilight remain in the western sky).

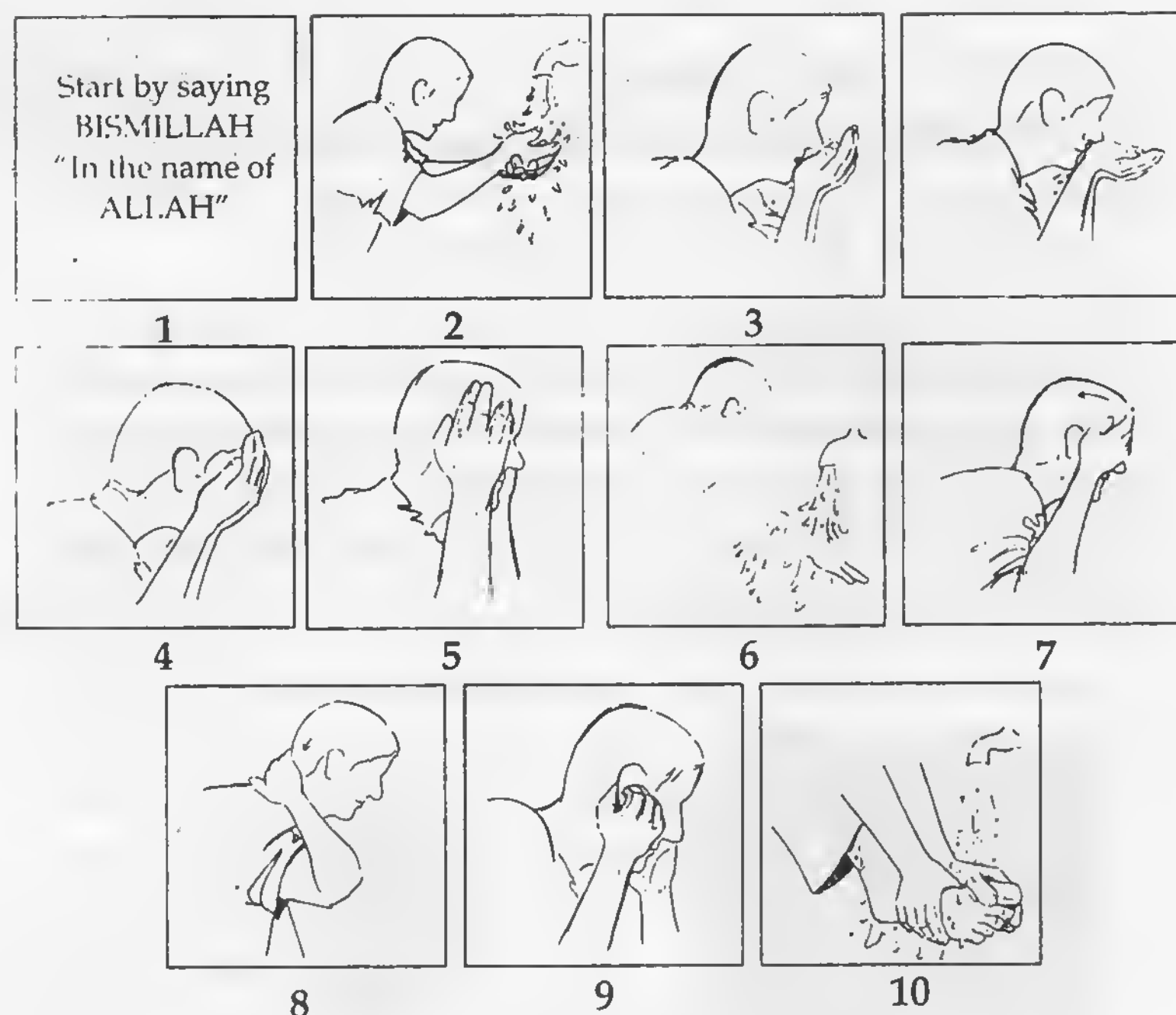
(5) Salaat ul-'Ishaa', the night prayer:

It consists of four rak'ahs (units of prayer). Its time begins about an hour and a half after sunset and extends to the middle of the night.

Of the five obligatory prayers mentioned above, one of them contains two rak'ahs, three contain four rak'ahs and one contains three rak'ahs. Each of these types of prayers will be explained separately. All the prayers (to be recited in Arabic) and the postures in which to recite each prayer have been explained with the help of the given diagrams.



This is one of the instruments available in the market. It is called 'Bilal'. It shows the direction of the Qiblah from most cities of the world. It also gives the times of daily prayer in most parts of the world.



THE PARTIAL ABLUTION (WUDHOO)

Before offering the prayer one must be in a state of purity and cleanliness. It is necessary to wash the parts of the body which are generally exposed to dirt or dust or smog. This act of washing the limbs is called ablution (Wudhoo') and is preferably carried out as follows:

1. Make the intention in your heart that this act is for the purpose of worship and purity. Start by saying "Bismillaah" (With the Name of Allaah).
2. Wash the hands up to the wrists, three times.
3. Rinse the mouth out with water and cleanse the nostrils of the nose by sniffing water into them and blowing it out, three times.
4. Wash the whole face three times with both hands, if possible, from the top of the forehead to the bottom of the chin and from ear to ear.

5. Wash the right arm three times up to the far end of the elbow, and then do the same with the left arm.

6. Wipe the whole head with wet hands, once.

7. Wipe the inside of the ears with the forefingers and their outsides with the thumbs. This should be done with wet fingers.

8. Wash the two feet up to the ankles and including the heels, three times, beginning with the right foot.

At this point the ablution is completed, and the person who has performed it is ready to start his prayer. When the ablution is valid a person may keep it as long as he can, and may use it for as many prayers as he wishes. But it is preferable to renew it as often as possible. It is also preferable to do it in the said order.

Ablution in the said way is sufficient for prayer unless it is nullified by any reason.

Nullification of the Ablution

The ablution becomes nullified by any of the following:

1. Natural discharges, i.e., urine, stools, gas, etc.
2. Vomiting intentionally;
3. Falling asleep;
4. Losing one's reason (senses) by taking drugs or any intoxicating Substance.
5. Touching one's sexual organ with the bare hand.

After the occurrence of any of these things the ablution must be renewed for prayer. Also, after using the toilet, water should be applied to aid in the cleaning of urine and fecal matter from the body. The use of toilet tissue is also acceptable.

Salaat udh- Dhuhr (The Noon Prayer)
 Salaat-ul-`Asr (The Afternoon Prayer)
 Salaat-ul-`Isha (The Night Prayer)

All these three prayers consist of four `rak`ahs (4 units)
 As explained through the postures below.



Fig.17



Fig.18



Fig.19



Fig.20



Fig.21



Fig.22



Fig.23

Note: The transcript of the arabic prayers is given on page 14-15 and 16 in english letters and the prayers have been recorded on a cassette for memorizing.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig.8



Fig.9



Fig.10



Fig.11



Fig.12



Fig.13



Fig.14



Fig.15



Fig.16